

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on August 30, 2006. Claim 1 is amended to correct a typographical omission in the definition of the variable "X" – compare the specification, page 3, line 26. A period (".") is inserted at the end of claim 2. Use claims 25-27 are cancelled, without prejudice. New claim 31 is added, directed to 1,2,4-benzothiadiazine-1,1-dioxide compounds of formula (I) wherein X is SO<sub>2</sub> and Y is N(R<sup>4</sup>) – i.e., compounds falling within the invention designated by the Examiner as Group I. New claim 32 corresponds to original claim 28, but is dependent from claim 32. New claim 33 is added, directed to the 7<sup>th</sup>-to-last compound of claim 22. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1-24 and 28-33 are pending in the application.

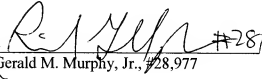
Responsive to the requirement for restriction as it was set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants elect the invention identified by the Examiner as Group I. At least claims 1-17, 22, 23, 31, and 33 read on the elected compound invention. This election is made with traverse. Applicants traverse the requirement for restriction on the grounds that the inventions claimed herein – all of which share structural formula (I) – could most efficiently be examined together in a single application. Moreover, the Examiner will be examining e.g. claim 1 which reads on the elected invention, so that the Examiner will be examining the merits of a claim which reads on the inventions identified by the Examiner as Groups II – IV as well as on elected Group I. Thus, since the Examiner will be examining a claim that includes the subject matter of all of Groups I – IV in this application, it does not appear that the requirement for restriction as stated in the outstanding Office Action would provide substantial benefit to the PTO.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #28,781  
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

GMM/RG

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000